

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EAS.3
Historic Name:	Sparrow, Caleb House
Common Name:	
Address:	305 State Hwy
City/Town:	Eastham
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	20-129
Year Constructed:	c 1856
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Shingle; Wood Foundation: Brick



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

P1-4 EAS.3

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's
Number

20/129

USGS Quad

Orleans

Area(s)

Form Number

3

Town

Eastham

(neighborhood or village)

305 State Highway

Public Name

Present

Residential

Original

"

Construction Between 1856 and
1858

See Bibliography*

Form Side-entry with Lateral Wing;
some Greek Revival Detail

Architect/Builder



if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient
here. Indicate North.

Exterior Material:

Foundation

Brick

Wall/Trim

Shingles

Roof

Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Numerous attached ells, sheds and a modern
barn.

Major Alterations (with dates)

See Architectural Description.

Condition

Good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage

5.65 acres

Setting Located in a densely-settled,
mixed-use, but largely residential section
of Route 6, the major, Cape Cod,
inter-community thoroughfare, the former
county road and a continuation of the
original Old King's Highway.

Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej

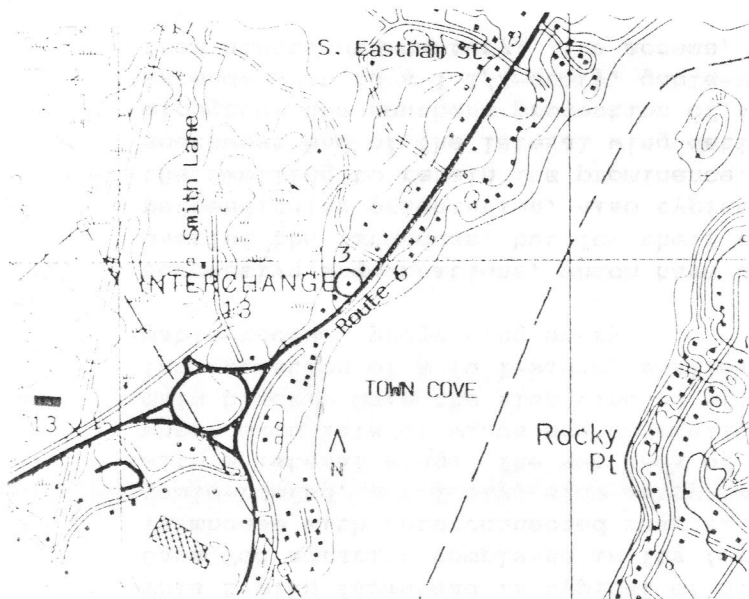
Organization: Commonwealth Collaborative

Date: February 1995

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MASS. HIST. COMM.



BUILDING FORM

305 State Highway

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION X See continuation sheet.

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This L-plan farmstead is typical of nineteenth-century, New England including Cape Cod agrarian complexes in its form and composition consisting of a farmhouse with interconnected rear ells/sheds and barn. Here a 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed, 3 x 1 bay, side-entry, main block has been expanded to the south with a lateral wing. The set back of this addition is atypical in Eastham where such lateral wings are generally oriented flush with the plane of the main block. Here the side wing is brought into line with the facade by the incorporation of a full-width, shallow, hip-roofed, enclosed porch with low gable-roofed, projecting entry.

Successive augmentations, which have continued through the 1980's, would have dwarfed the farmhouse, but for their organization toward the rear and perpendicular orientation, also typical of New England farmsteads, which allow the dwelling to retain its prominence. A 1 1/2-story, rear ell off the southwest end of the lateral wing dating from the late 1930's early 1940's elongates the southern projection of the lateral wing on the first floor and extends west to a 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed, shingled barn which likely dates from nineteenth-century. Its access, however, has been modified by the

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE X See continuation sheet.

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This farmstead is representative of the continuing rural nature of Eastham and agrarian orientation of a significant element of the community's economy through the early twentieth-century. The attribution of local historian Howard Quinn is corroborated by title research completed in 1991 by Nancy Heller of the Eastham Historical Society which ascribes this property to Caleb Sparrow, mariner, who bought 1 1/2 acres of land from Esther M. and Jabez Sparrow (relationship unknown) in 1856 (Bk. 63; Pg. 134). The latter also sold the adjacent property where 245 State Highway stands (see Form No. 2).

The chain of title thereafter is confusing. In 1862, Ezra Knowles, Jr., housewright, secured a mortgage from Joseph C. Mayo, yeoman, for the property (Bk. 80; Pg. 136). On the 1880 map, the property is credited to Richard S. Myrick who in 1881 may have sold to Walter O. Knowles (Bk 191; Pg. 397).

Lewis Henry Collins (d. 1932), a surfman for many years at the Coast Guard Life Boat Station, bought this house in 1905 (Bk 225; Pg. 69). Lewis Collins was also involved in a shellfish business with his son, Bernard Collins, (b. Eastham at the Life Boat Station, 1896; d. 1980) who upon his return from World War I purchased the firm J. A. Stubbs located on Northern Avenue in Boston. Lewis Collins procured product from all the shellfisheries on

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X See continuation sheet.

 Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;

If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

305 State Highway
Eastham

Area Form No. 3

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

installation of a modern, overhead garage door. A tiny, 1-bay shed connects this barn on the south with a smaller, 1-story, shingled, gable-roofed shed dated by the owner to the early twentieth-century. The last housed a root cellar and a tool room.

Modern additions have expanded this nineteenth century core to accommodate current use of the complex as a horse farm. A smaller, 1950's, 2-stall barn, still used as such, extends along the same plan as the barn leading to a large, perpendicularly-oriented, gambrel-roofed barn erected in 1987. A garage has been attached to end of the rear ell and along the north wall of the nineteenth-century barn.

Fenestration consists principally of 6/6, double-hung sash set in plain trim. Louvered blinds remain in many locations. Tri-part, continuous, 2/1, double-hung sash are utilized on the south elevation of hip-roofed addition to the lateral wing. The porch is defined by 2/2, double-hung sash and a shingled, enclosed rail. The gable-roof of the lateral wing is broken on the front slope by the installation of a shed dormer with paired, small, 6/6 double-hung sash. Other detail is limited to end boards, boxed, molded cornice with return and a plain frieze, wider on side elevations.

A tall chimney with corbeled cap sits near the ridge line of the lateral wing. A secondary chimney is located on the ridge line of the rear ell.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

the Lower Cape and shipped them to his son's company in Boston which supplied many of Boston's major restaurants. In 1906, Bernard Collins purchased land across the street on Town Cove where in 1928 and 1929 he built the seven cottages and house located at 150 Old State Highway.

Lewis H. Collins also built the bungalow next door at 295 State Highway to which he moved and willed this house to his son, Lewis Weston Collins (d. 1952). The cottages were inherited by his son, Bernard.

No information on Jabez Sparrow, Ezra Knowles, Jr. or Walter O. Knowles (relationship unknown) was located in local secondary sources, but may be available in the genealogical records of the Eastham Historical Society Archives.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hales, John G. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1830.

*House file 305 State Highway, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

Interview with Kenelm Collins, June 22, 1995.

Lowe, Alice Alberta, Nauset on Cape Cod, p. 124.

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Quinn, Howard. Transcript of Oral History Tape, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

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*Walker, George F. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston: George F. Walker & Co., 1880.

_____. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston Walker Lithographer and Publishing Co., 1908.

*Wallings, Henry F. Map of Eastham. Boston: D. R. Smith Co., 1858.

